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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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The following is a summary of Soviet activity along the Soviet-Iranian
border during the period 11 March - 2 April 1951.

1. Pol Dasht
14-16 March
(report for three days)

Rail Traffic

Westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan:
six trains composed of 137 cars carry-
ing trucks, autos, gasoline, and coal.
night Five trains of unknown make-up.

Eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan:
three trains composed of 84 cars carry-
ing autos, gasoline, wood, and coal.
night Eleven trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan:
nine trains composed of 186 cars carry-
ing coal, gasoline, engines, trucks, logs,
and planks.
night Three trains of unknown make-up.

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: four
trains composed of 155 cars carrying
gasoline, autos, coal, wood products, and
plaster.
night Four trains of unknown make-up.

17 March

Rail Traffic

Westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: three
trains composed of 91 cars carrying trucks,
autos, coal, and gasoline.

Eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: one
train composed of 38 closed cars, two tank
cars, and six empty cars.
night Two trains of unknown make-up.

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Westbound, Dzghulfa to Nakhichevan:
three trains composed of 101 cars carry-
ing wood, plaster, coal, engines and
autos.

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Dzghulfa:
one passenger train composed of 14 cars.
night Three trains of unknown make-up.

18 March

Rail Traffic

Westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan:
three trains composed of 88 cars carry-
ing passengers, trucks, wood, and coal.

Eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: two
trains composed of 61 cars, of which 49
were closed cars, seven were tank cars,
and four were carrying sand.
night Three trains of unknown make-up

Westbound, Dzghulfa to Nakhichevan:
three trains composed of 60 cars carry-
ing passengers, trucks, coal, gasoline,
logs, and planks.

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: one
train composed of 21 closed cars, 14 cars
carrying coal, and six carrying jeeps.
night Three trains of unknown make-up.

22-26 March
(report for five days)

Rail Traffic

Eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: two
trains composed of 82 cars carrying gasoline
and coal.
night 15 trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: 14
trains composed of 392 cars carrying
passengers, coal, gasoline, jeeps, logs,
planks, sand, trucks, and autos.
night Three trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound, Dzghulfa to Nakhichevan:
15 trains composed of 475 cars carrying
passengers, coal, jeeps, autos, gasoline,
logs, trucks, automobile engines, planks,
and plaster.
night Two trains of unknown make-up.

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Dzghulfa: 10
trains composed of 350 cars carrying
passengers, logs, gasoline, jeeps, autos,
coal, sand, iron, and plaster.
night Seven trains of unknown make-up.

31 March-1 April
(report for two days)

Rail Traffic

Westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: four
trains composed of 88 cars carrying
passengers, gasoline, coal, wood, iron, and
plaster.

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night One train of unknown make-up.

Eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan:
three trains composed of 60 cars carry-
ing passengers, jeeps, and gasoline.

night Four trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: six
trains composed of 121 cars carrying
passengers, planks, coal, jeeps, autos,
and trucks.

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: two
trains composed of 68 cars carrying logs
and gasoline.

night Four trains of unknown make-up.

Two unidentified aircraft were observed
at a high altitude over Pol Dasht.

1 (sic)-2 April

Rail Traffic

Westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: three
trains composed of 77 cars carrying
passengers, planks, coal, gasoline, earth,
and 16 soldiers.

Eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: two
trains composed of 78 cars carrying gasoline
and generators.

night Four trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: five
trains composed of 124 cars carrying
passengers, coal, gasoline, and planks.

night Two trains of unknown make-up.

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: five
trains composed of 70 cars carrying jeeps,
gasoline, planks, coal, autos, trucks, and
engines.

night Two trains of unknown make-up.

2. Dzhulfa
14-15 March
(report for two days)

Rail Traffic

East and westbound, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to
Nakhichevan: 15 trains composed of 152
cars carrying lumber, coal, autos, gasoline,
motors, and trucks.

night Four trains of unknown make-up.

Rifle practice took place north of the
Soviet border post of Dzhulfa.

16 March

Rail Traffic

East and westbound, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to
Nakhichevan: four trains composed of 138
cars carrying engines, autos, iron materials,
coal, and lumber.

night Three trains of unknown make-up.

17 March

Rail Traffic

Dzhulfa westbound to Nakhichevan and
eastbound to Ordubad: three trains composed
of 71 cars carrying planks, coal, barrels,
and gasoline.

night Four trains of unknown make-up.

25 March

Rail Traffic

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: one
train composed of five passenger cars and
nine cars carrying soldiers.

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29 March-2 April
(report for five days)

Rail Traffic

Westbound, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: 14 trains composed of 472 cars carrying gasoline, engines, jeeps, trucks, autos, cylinders, lumber, coal, and passengers.

night One train of unknown make-up.

Eastbound, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: five trains composed of 213 cars carrying gasoline, engines, and barrels.
night Westbound, Ordubad to Dzhulfa: seven trains of unknown make-up.

During one day of the period reported on, 150 flares were fired behind Dzhulfa heights.

30 March

A westbound train from Ordubad to Dzhulfa carried soldiers who were possibly frontier guard replacements.

3. Ordubad
14-15 March
(report for two days)

Rail Traffic

Westbound: six trains composed of 148 cars carrying autos, trucks, agricultural machinery, wood, and sand.

Eastbound: four trains composed of 92 cars.

16 March

Rail Traffic

Westbound: three trains composed of 82 cars carrying passengers, tractors, and generators.

Eastbound: two trains composed of 63 cars carrying passengers, gasoline, and autos.

17 March

Rail Traffic

Westbound: two trains composed of 48 cars.

Eastbound: three trains composed of 108 cars.

Rifle and light machine gun practice took place in the area of Ordubad.

24-25 March
(report for two days)

Rail Traffic

Westbound: seven trains composed of 449 cars.

Eastbound: two trains composed of 64 cars. On 24 March, 31 civilians got off one of the eastbound trains at Qarachuan (not located). The train carried five cars of unarmed troops. On 25 March 200 civilians and seven soldiers got off an eastbound train opposite the Noodi (not located) post. The troops went to the post, and the civilians to water pump installations near the post.

30-31 March
(report for two days)

Rail Traffic

Westbound: four trains composed of 240 cars. On 31 March 150 soldiers coming from the Ordubad post boarded one of the westbound trains. 40 soldiers and two

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officers got off a westbound train
at Ordubad.

Eastbound: four trains composed of 201
cars.

1-2 April
(report for two days)

Rail Traffic

Westbound: two trains composed of 113 cars.

Eastbound: seven trains composed of 464
cars among which 14 gondolas were observed
carrying men, women, and children.

4. Khuda Afarin
14 and 15 March

Rail Traffic

Eastbound: 4 trains made up of 160 cars
carrying iron and machine tools.

Westbound: 3 trains made up of 91 cars
carrying passengers, wood, coal, telephone
wire, and 2 artillery pieces.

16 March

Westbound: 1 train of 43 cars

Eastbound: 3 trains made up of 122 cars.

24 March

Westbound: 1 train composed of 25 carloads
of stone.

Eastbound: 1 train composed of 75 cars.

30 and 31 March

Eastbound: 4 trains composed of 142 cars.

Westbound: 3 trains made up of 70 cars.

The Soviet post opposite Mohamed Razalu
was moved to within two meters of the
Araxes River.

5. Garmi
14 March

Increased activity and constant movement
of vehicles were observed.

6. Namin
1 April

The Soviets installed barbed wire from the
Qarvol Khaneh post toward the Sadafarin
post.

7. Astara
14 and 15 March

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and
Lenkoran: 2 jeeps, 2 autos, 3 ambulances,
and 6 trucks carrying soldiers and 8 officers.
4 groups of soldiers on foot.

East and westbound between Astara and
Masjed Mahalleh: 2 jeeps, 6 trucks, 2
motorcycles, and 5 carts carrying 97
troops and 27 civilians, 6 mounted troops.

Westbound, Masjed Mahalleh to the post
under observation farthest west: 6 trucks,
1 cart, and 1 motorcycle carrying 13 troops
and 12 civilians.

There was mortar and machine gun practice
at the Astara post and garrison.

There was intermittent searchlight and
flare activity.

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16 March

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: 5 jeeps and 5 trucks carrying 112 troops.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: 2 motorcycles, 4 trucks, and 3 carts carrying 47 troops and 2 civilians. One group of armed troops on foot and one group of armed troops on horseback.

East and westbound between Masjed Mahalleh and the last post under observation to the west: 8 trucks and 6 carts carrying 27 unarmed troops and 3 women.

There was intermittent searchlight and flare activity.

High-ranking Soviet officers photographed Iranian territory from the Astara post.

17 March

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: 10 vehicles carrying 25 troops and 5 civilians, one group of armed soldiers on foot.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: 3 trucks carrying 11 troops, 8 of whom were unarmed. 1 company of unarmed troops.

East and westbound between Masjed Mahalleh and the last post under observation to the west. 7 vehicles carrying 2 officers and 71 armed troops.

There was intermittent flare and searchlight activity.

25 March

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: 17 vehicles carrying 15 officers and 12 unarmed troops. One group of armed soldiers on foot.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: 12 vehicles carrying 8 officers, 48 armed and 24 unarmed troops. 7 civilians and 1 group of armed troops on foot. 1 group of armed troops on horseback.

East and westbound between Masjed Mahalleh and the last post under observation to the west: 10 vehicles carrying 35 armed and 42 unarmed troops.

There was intermittent flare and searchlight activity.

30 March

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: 16 vehicles carrying 17 soldiers and 128 armed troops. One group of armed troops.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: 15 vehicles carrying 8 officers, 111 armed troops, and 9 civilians. One group of armed troops on foot and one group of armed troops on horseback.

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East and westbound between Masjed Mahalleh and the last post under observation to the west: 15 vehicles carrying 60 armed and 8 unarmed troops.

Trains were heard 12 times moving toward Astara from the north.

There was intermittent flare and searchlight activity.

31 March

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: 10 vehicles carrying 40 troops and 49 unarmed civilians.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: 5 vehicles carrying 2 officers, 30 armed troops, several unarmed troops, and 7 civilians.

East and westbound between Masjed Mahalleh and the post under observation farthest to the west: 4 vehicles carrying 12 unarmed troops and 7 civilians.

Trains were heard 5 times moving toward Astara from the north.

Flare activity was greater than on 30 March. Searchlight activity was intermittent.

1 April

Road Traffic

North and southbound between Astara and Lenkoran: 28 vehicles carrying 3 officers, 25 armed, and 2 unarmed troops. 2 unarmed troops and 1 group of troops on foot.

East and westbound between Astara and Masjed Mahalleh: 11 vehicles carrying 4 officers, 34 armed troops, and 9 civilians. 1 officer and 1 civilian on bicycles.

Khoshkeh Dahaneh (not located) to Baghcheh (possibly Bagchen Sareh, 38-27N, 48-50E): 12 officers and 1 soldier.

Westbound, Masjed Mahalleh to last post to west under observation: 7 vehicles carrying 48 armed and 10 unarmed troops, 7 civilians, and 1 officer.

There was intermittent flare and searchlight activity.

Telephone wires were laid at Qapchi Mahalleh (not located) toward Astara. 50X1-HUM

8.

9. Lutfabad
11-16 March

Westbound, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: 25 trains composed of 611 cars carrying passengers, trucks, wood, bricks, iron, skins, gasoline, 3 loads of armored cars, and 1 military tank.

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Eastbound, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: 26 trains composed of 685 cars carrying passengers, iron, bricks, gasoline, and coal.

night East and westbound between Ashkhabad and Kaakha: 60 trains.

25-28 March

Westbound, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: 20 trains composed of 737 cars carrying passengers, alfalfa, iron, wood, bricks, trucks, jeeps, autos, 10 weapons carriers, and 2 loads of guns.

Eastbound, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: 22 trains composed of 500 cars loaded with iron, wood, coal, bricks, autos, jeeps, and trucks.

29-31 March

Westbound, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: 14 trains composed of 442 cars carrying passengers, gasoline, wood, trucks, autos, coal, iron, scales, and 2 loads of artillery pieces.

Eastbound, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: 12 trains composed of 280 cars carrying passengers, gasoline, coal, casts, bricks, autos, and 24 loads of troops.

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